

Message Text

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61

ORIGIN NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-03 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00

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DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MHMAUGHAN:JFC

APPROVED BY NEA - MR. SAUNDERS

NEA/ARN - MR. KORN

H - MISS FOLGER (SUBS.)

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O 262229Z APR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:OREP, IZ, US

SUBJECT: PROPOSED VISIT TO IRAQ BY SENATOR KENNEDY
BEIRUT POUCH BAGHDAD

1. DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY (D-MASS.) PLANS TRIP TO MIDDLE EAST IN MAY AND HOPES TO INCLUDE IRAQ ON ITINERARY. PRESENT PROPOSAL IS FOR STOP-OVER IN BAGHDAD ABOUT MAY 24-26. SENATOR WANTS TO DISCUSS OIL ISSUES WITH IRAQIS AND WOULD DOUBTLESS ALSO BE INTERESTED IN CURRENT SITUATION RE KURDS.

2. SENATOR'S OFFICE HAS ALREADY INFORMED AMIN HASSAN AT IRAQI INTERESTS SECTION OF PROPOSED TRIP. HASSAN SAID HE WOULD INFORM BAGHDAD IMMEDIATELY AND LATER TOLD NEA/ARN THAT HE HAD IN FACT SENT LETTER TO MFA WITH RECOMMENDATION THAT KENNEDY BE ALLOWED TO VISIT BAGHDAD. HASSAN DECLINED TO SPECULATE ON PROBABLE MFA REACTION TO THIS RECOMMENDATION.

3. USINT REQUESTED TO APPROACH GOI RE KENNEDY'S INTEREST IN
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VISITING BAGHDAD FOR DISCUSSIONS ON TOPICS NOTED ABOVE AND

TO INFORM DEPARTMENT ASAP OF GOI RESPONSE. IF RESPONSE
IS FAVORABLE, KENNEDY'S OFFICE HAS REQUESTED ASSISTANCE IN
SETTING UP MEETINGS WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS AND USINT
SHOULD ASSIST WITH THESE ARRANGEMENTS. SUGGESTIONS ON
POSSIBLE SIDE TRIPS ALSO WELCOME. (SENATOR EXPRESSED
INTEREST IN BABYLON AND NINEVAH, POSSIBLY SAMARRA.) KISSINGER

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